

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2154

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USFJ YOKOTA

USAGO MACHINATO

313TH AD/18TFW CG

MARCORB CAMP BUTLER

COMFLEACTS OKINAWA

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR, JA

SUBJECT: US-JAPAN CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS: OKINAWA

1. OKINAWA PREFECTURE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY,
PREFECTURE INDUSTRIAL FEDERATION AND OKINAWA MANAGEMENT ASSOC.
HAVE PRESENTED CG WITH PETITION DATED JULY 9 REQUESTING THAT NWA

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AND PAA CONTINUE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE TO NAHA AFTER MAY 15, 1977
AND REQUESTING RESUMPTION OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICE BY OTHER AIR-
LINES WHICH HAD SERVED NAHA BEFORE REVERSION IN 1972. PETITION
NOTES THAT BEFORE REVERSION NAHA WAS SERVED BY FIVE INTERNA-
TIONAL AIRLINES RUNNING AS MANY AS 29 FLIGHTS A WEEK (NWA, TWA,
CONTINENTAL, CAL AND JAL). BUT THAT PURSUANT TO REVERSION AGRE-
EMENT, ONLY NWA AND PAA, WITH TOTAL OF SEVEN FLIGHTS A WEEK, ARE
ALLOWED TO USE NAHA UNTIL MAY 14, 1977. PETITION ASSERTS THAT
TERMINATION OF NWA AND PAA RIGHTS NEXT YEAR WOULD DO GREAT DAMAGE
TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OKINAWA, WHICH HAS BEEN SEEKING TO
ESTABLISH ITSELF AS SOUTHERN GATEWAY OF JAPAN, AND THAT INTERNATIONAL
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AIRLINES ARE ESSENTIAL TO PLANNED DEVELOPMENT OF OKINAWA AS RESORT

AREA.

2. TOP LEADERS OF THESE OKINAWA ORGANIZATIONS TOLD CG THAT BILATERAL CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN SEPT AND THAT JAPANESE MOT HAS ASKED ALL INTERESTED PARTIES TO SUBMIT VIEWS TO GOJ BY END OF THIS MONTH. THEY ASSERTED THAT VIEWS SUBMITTED TO CG REPRESENT OKINAWAN CONSENSUS AND REPRESENT THOSE OF PREFECTURAL GOVT AS WELL AS THEIR ORGANIZATIONS. ALL WOULD BE SUBMITTING SIMILAR PETITIONS TO GOJ.

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3. CG SAID THEIR PETITION WOULD BE FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON. CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS WAS SUBJECT HANDLED AT GOVT TO GOVT LEVEL AND HE WAS NOT AT LIBERTY TO MAKE ANY PUBLIC COMMENT ON SUBJECT. CG WENT ON TO EXPRESS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT USG, AS WELL AS PAA AND NWA, WANTED SERVICE TO CONTINUE INDEFINITELY BEYOND MAY 14, 1977. CG EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL AGREEMENT THAT DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TOURISM TO OKINAWA WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF ECONOMY OF OKINAWA AND THAT PAA AND NWA CONTINUED USE OF NAHA WAS ESSENTIAL TO THAT END.

4. IN MEETING WITH CG, PETITIONERS COMMENTED THAT USE OF NAHA BY AMERICAN AIRLINES WAS ONE U.S. ACTIVITY ON OKINAWA ON WHICH ALL OKINAWANS COULD AGREE, AND WAS IMPORTANT MEANS OF OFFSETTING UNFAVORABLE ATTITUDE OF U.S. MILITARY BASES.

KNOWLES

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